

Troop 181 Newsletter

www.paoli181.com



Ice Climbing at Ricketts Glen State Park

Thanks to **Mike Harris** for organizing this popular annual trip to Camp Lavigne. Our Scouts camped during the frigid weekend of **January 8 – 10**. On Saturday, the crew hiked the frozen waterfalls in Ricketts Glen State Park using crampons. [Photos](#) of the event have been posted on the Troop website.



February Ski Trip

The Troop's annual ski trip is scheduled for Sunday, February 20th. **Mike Dixon** is planning this day trip. Presently, the plan is to go to Elk for the day but if you have suggestions for other locations or lodging (we can convert to an overnight), please confer with Mike. Look for an update after the next parents' meeting for final information about this trip.



Klondike Derby

Mark your calendar for the Yukon Gold Rush, this year's Klondike Derby, to be held at Marsh Creek State Park on Saturday, **February 6th**. Patrols will run for the gold through Kodiak, Skagway, Juneau, Skagwa, Little Diomed and Port Deposit, giving their Scout skills a work out along the way. This is a morning event; a hot lunch is served before the awards ceremony. **Gene Christner** is leading this event. Watch for an e-mail with more details and to sign up.



Winter Court of Honor

The Winter Court of Honor for Troop 181 is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 2nd at BUMC starting at 6:15 PM**. The celebration will start with a Family Style Dinner and will be followed by the Troop Court of Honor. All family members are invited and encouraged to attend! Anyone who can arrive at Shieck Hall at 6:00 PM to help with set up would be much appreciated.

The meal will be a buffet style dinner. Each family should bring an entree and side dish to share. (Don't forget to bring serving spoons and to mark your containers, utensils with your name.) If everyone brings along a little something, we should have more than enough to share. Bring the hot food "hot" as we will not be using the BUMC kitchen. The Troop will supply dinnerware, paper plates, napkins, drinks, and dessert.

The **Court of Honor** program will include our Friends of Scouting (FOS) Kickoff, presentation of Merit Badges and Rank Advancement, the introduction of newly elected Troop leaders, the announcement of the Troop of the Year and the presentation of recognition ribbons for the flag standard. Mothers, wear your ribbons!



High Adventure 2010 Update

The Scout-led High Adventure Committee has voted to travel the length of the C&O Canal, from Cumberland, WV into Washington, D.C. The crew will bike and canoe the canal from July 17 - 25. The cost is yet to be determined; much planning remains to be done. Any Scout

who will be 14 years old by next summer and who will hold a rank of at least First Class can participate. Mr. Harris is overseeing this trip.



Eagle Court of Honor

On **Saturday, January 2, 2010**, we celebrated an Eagle Court of Honor and recognized the rise to Eagle of five Scouts: **Stephen Griffin, Sam McCarty, Vincent Smith, Henry Szupica** and **Mike Warnock**. Following the Court of Honor, the Troop honored **David Miller** for the service that he has given to our Troop and our sons as Scoutmaster. The lavish event was well attended and a fitting tribute to our Eagles and to our outgoing Scoutmaster. Many, many people in the Troop worked together to produce the event and, at the risk of failing to mention some, the efforts of the following people are noted: **Jack Warnock** coordinated everyone's efforts and served as the evening's emcee, the **mothers of the new Eagle Scouts** organized our meal, **Jack Smith** created the printed programs, **Scott** and **Barbara Wilson** created the slide show (and Barbara made sure all of our food was warm and ready!), and **Sue Weissman** photographed the event. Photos will be posted on the Troop's website and DVDs that Sue created will be delivered to each of the new Eagles and to Mr. Miller. **Thank you** to everyone for making the event a success!

Scout Recruiting

On **January 10, 2010** we assisted Pack 113 with their Pinewood Derby Workshop held at BUMC. Several of our Scouts and parents participated in helping the Cub Scouts with the design, cutting and assembly of their Derby cars. Thanks to all those who volunteered! **Joe Franz** and **Mike Ryczyn** coordinated this event.

We continue to be joined at Troop meetings on a regular basis by Webelos and their parents who are visiting as they make up their minds on which Troop to cross-over into. Please continue to make our visitors feel welcome! Cross-over events generally take place between February and April each year so we may have new

Scouts in our Troop shortly!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following Scout who advanced in rank between December 12, 2009 and January 13th 2010:

Stephen Griffin -- Eagle

Congratulations to the following Scouts who have earned merit badges between December 12, 2009 and January 13th 2010:

Kevin Haddad - First Aid
Joseph DiGiorgio - Citizen in the Community



Fundraising Committee News

The Fundraising Committee is meeting this month to create a program for 2010. If you would like to be involved, contact Fundraising Co-Chair **Susan Morris** or **Cassie Jamison**. Our fundraising program is flexible and can change from year to year to reflect the interests of the Scouts and the parents. If you have an idea of what to do or what not to do, see Sue or Cassie.

Our most recent fundraiser, the **Barnes & Noble gift wrapping**, was held on **Wednesday, December 23rd**. Eight Scouts and their parents participated and raised \$272.65; an equal portion of which was deposited to each Scout's account. Thanks to all those who made this a successful event! **Jayashree Bhaskar** coordinated this fundraiser.

The Fundraising Committee has arranged for our participation in the eScrips program with Genuardi's. To participate in the eScrips program or for additional information about any fundraising activity, contact Fundraising Co-Chair **Susan Morris** or **Cassie Jamison**.



Morning of Service to BUMC

On Wednesday morning, December 30th, the Troop assembled at BUMC to give back to our chartering organization by performing small repairs and maintenance on church buildings. The Scouts who volunteered spent about two and half hours fixing emergency exit lights, putting caps on outlets, putting batteries into exit signs, polishing wood surfaces, etc. **Scott Wilson** coordinated this activity.



January Church Service at BUMC

Troop 181 has accepted an invitation from BUMC to assist with their two morning church services on Sunday, January 17, 2010. Scouts will participate as greeters, ushers and readers. **Scott Wilson** will deliver the message at both services. Services start at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. All scouts are invited to attend and to help out during the service. Please arrive at **8:00 AM** for the early service or **10:00 AM** for the later service in full **Class A** uniforms.

Scout Sunday

The annual Scout Sunday service will be celebrated on **Sunday, February 14th at BUMC** at the 10:30 AM service. All Scouts and their families are welcome to attend this service. We will need several Scouts to help with readings.

Scouts should plan to arrive at the Church at **10:00 AM in Class A uniform**. The service is over at about 11:30 AM.

Finance Committee News

Dues are past due! Invoices for \$193 have been e-mailed to all Scout families. If your payment has not been received, you have been sent a second e-mail. A final e-mail invoice will be sent in early February, followed by phone calls. Please help out and pay your invoice now so that we do not have to do any further follow-up! Remember, we are all volunteers and it is no fun to chase the dues! If you are having

financial difficulty, please be proactive and ask for a payment schedule or assistance. Financial assistance is always available to help families meet Troop expenses, camping costs and other costs associated with Scouting. For example, no Scout should be kept from high adventure because of an inability to meet the expense. Cases are considered on an individual basis. If you **need financial assistance**, please speak with Scott Wilson, Joe DiGiorgio or Linda Bravacos. Arrangements for a payment plan can be made by contacting the same individuals.



National Hall of Leadership

HURRY! HURRY! Time is running out. BSA has created the National Hall of Leadership as part of the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Scouting. The objective is to gather and share the significant positive impact Scouting leadership has made on the quality of life in our local communities. Anyone can nominate a Scout for this recognition; a nominee must simply be a living Scout or Scouting volunteer who may or may not currently be officially registered with the BSA. A nominee may be young or old; there is no age limit for nominees. There is no limit on the number of individuals you nominate. Why not take a few moments to recognize someone who has made a positive impact on your life as a Scout? Nominations are submitted online in the form of a 450 word story. Click [here](#) to learn more and to nominate someone. The nomination period closes on February 8, 2010, but don't wait! Chester County Council is collecting local stories from the national submissions for our own local Hall of Leadership. Let someone know they mattered to you by taking the time to make a nomination!

Counselor in Training at Horseshoe

Looking for a way to get more out of Scouting? What about serving as a Counselor in Training this summer at Horseshoe? Council is looking

for Scouts, ages 14-15, to take advantage of this leadership opportunity. For roughly four weeks, CITs rotate through four different department areas and in each area they help run the daily operations. Duties might include helping a counselor teach merit badges, prepping for merit badges, and other work around the department area. For more information, click [here](#), and then choose the button on the right "2010 Summer Staff Click Here" From the next menu, choose the Parent's Information Sheet. Still have questions? Camp Director John Lukowski can help: 610-917-9313

Scouting University

Scouts are invited to participate in the Scouting University, a merit badge opportunity, on January 30, 2010 at Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA. Registration is ongoing and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up directly on the [Elizabethtown College website](#). The Troop will organize transportation to and from the event as a day-outing. The packet of information about this event that Scott Wilson handed out at the first November Troop meeting, can be found on our [YahooGroups website](#).



Class B Shirts

Donna DiGiorgio is the keeper of the Class B shirts. If anyone needs a shirt, see Donna. Cost is \$10.

Roster and Calendar Updates

The most up-to-date Roster can always be found in the Files section of our YahooGroups website. The most up-to-date Calendar can always be found on the Troop website and in the [Files](#) section of our YahooGroups website.

PLC News

January 5th – Class A – BUMC

-Admission: Square Knot tying behind backs



-Six cub scouts visiting from Pack 112
-Meal planning; cold weather demo
-QM check off

January 12th – No Meeting

January 19th – Class B – BUMC

-Signs of stroke
-Presentation on EDGE
-Collin will plan a game

January 24th – PLC meeting at Bravacos'

January 26th – Class B – BUMC

-All scouts to bring their handbooks
-Patrol elections
-JB will plan a game

Next Parents' Meeting

The next parents' meeting is at **7:00 pm on Sunday, January 31st at BUMC**. *Please note that the date is moved up to accommodate the Super Bowl.*

Troop Website

Need information about the Troop between parents' meetings and Newsletters? Check the Troop website: paoli181.com Our website is kept updated with Scout Leadership positions and other important news and information.



BSA's new rank requirements

Please refer to the following link for updates:
[2008 Rank Requirement Changes](#).

As of January 1, 2010 there will be additional rank requirement changes. A file has been posted on our Yahoo Groups site with the new requirements: [2010 Rank Requirement Changes](#)

Adult Youth Protection Training – Online!

All adults/parents who participate in troop outings and trips must take Youth Protection Training once every two years.

This is a BSA requirement and protects you and our Scouts. It is easy and quick since you can take it online in 30 minutes. Go to [BSA Online Learning Center](#) and click on the Youth Protection Training tab. This will take you to the E-Learning Portal. If you have a MyScouting account, just sign in as usual. Otherwise, register for a MyScouting account so that you can access the online training. Please follow the instructions on [CCCBSA Adult Leadership Training Courses](#) on how to print your certificate after the completion of the online course and how to have it recorded. If you are a registered leader and need your BSA number, e-mail the request to Counsel at scouting@cccbsa.org and the number will be e-mailed back to you promptly.

Let **Cindy Sharo**, our training coordinator, know that you have completed the Adult Youth Protection Training.

Another great online course is the **Troop Committee Challenge** which Cindy recommends for those families whose sons joined the troop in the past two years. This, as well as other great courses that might interest you can be found at the [BSA Online Learning Center](#). They are quick and free and will help the Troop and you!

Every Scout deserves a trained leader. Please do your part to oblige him.

Troop Yahoo Groups Sign-Up

The beauty of Yahoo Groups is that all email sent through Yahoo Groups will be forwarded to you directly at the email you have registered. If you are having trouble with this feature, please contact KS Bhaskar for help at bhaskar@acm.org.

If you haven't already signed up for the **Yahoo Groups for Troop 181**, please do so. Send an e-mail to paoli181-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Having trouble with sign up? Contact KS Bhaskar at bhaskar@acm.org.

Remember that any e-mail sent to paoli181@yahoogroups.com will be forwarded to everyone who is a subscriber to the group.

IMPORTANT: You must be signed up to receive Yahoo Groups e-mail. If you are not signed up, you will not receive Troop announcements, notices and other important information about the Troop. All of these are now being sent only through Yahoo Groups.



Troop Adult Leadership

Linda Bravacos – Troop Committee Chair

610-647-8951, 610-316-7902 cell

Scott Wilson - Scoutmaster

610-964-8467

A.B. Maynard– Camping Committee Chair

610-578-0493

Vince Piotti – Advancement Committee Chair

610-296-9058

Donna McCarty- Court of Honor Comm. Chair

610-644-0255

Susan Morris, Cassie Jamison – Fund

Raising Comm. Co-Chairs

Susan 610-889-7497; Cassie 610-725-0628

Mike Dixon – Cabin Committee Chair

610-827-1991

Jayashree Bhaskar – Communications Comm.

Chair 610-296-7332

Joe DiGiorgio – Finance Committee Chair

610-688-1126

Mike Harris- Quartermaster

610-647-0808

Cindy Sharo – Training Coordinator

610-293-9177

Mike Brown - Charter Organization

Representative 610-688-2853

Mike Ryczyn– Recruiting Coordinator

610-240-7769

John Bravacos- Friends of Scouting Chair

610-647-8951

Donna DiGiorgio- Treasurer

610-688-1126

Please see the troop roster for the Boy Scout Youth Leadership contact information.

2009-2010 Calendar of Key Events

January 2 – Eagle Court of Honor and Farewell Reception for Mr. Miller - BUMC

January 8-10 – Ice Hiking - Ricketts Glen

January 10 – Pinewood Derby Workshop - BUMC

January 17 – Sunday Services - BUMC

January 30 – Scouting University -
Elizabethtown College

February 2 – Winter Court of Honor and
Potluck Dinner - BUMC

February 6 – Klondike Derby – Marsh Creek

February 8 - 100th Anniversary of Scouting!

February 14 – Scout Sunday - BUMC

February 20 – Ski trip, day trip only (location
TBD)

March 12-15 – DC camping trip - Greenbelt
National Park or Manassas, VA

March 13 – First Aid Meet (location TBD)

April 30-May 2 – UMC Camping and Service
Weekend – UMC Poconos campsite

April 23-25 – OA Ordeal Weekend - Horseshoe

May – Beach Jam – Wildwood (date TBD)

May 7-9 – NYLT Weekend #1 - Ware

May 14-16 – NYLT Weekend #2 - Ware

June 4-6 – OA Ordeal Weekend - Horseshoe

June 12 – Family Outing (location TBD)

June 12-13 – Jamboree Shakedown (location
TBD)

June 27-July 4 – Science Camp - Ware

July 4 – 11 - Summer Camp – Roberts at
Horseshoe

July 17 – 25 – Tentative High Adventure – C&O
Canal

July 25 – August 4 – Jamboree – Fort Hill, VA